



MEAT GOAT PROJECT AREA

In the meat goat project area, you can learn about breeds, health care, grooming, production, reproduction, management, showmanship, marketing, and careers! Learn about the fastest growing livestock project area in the country!

Ideas for Project Area Learning

- Learn about the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on one or more head of livestock.
- Gain knowledge about sound breeding, feeding, and management practices.
- Identify quality in wholesale and resell cuts of meat to understand the relationship to management principles.
- Learn about caring for healthy and sick animals.
- Be a good sport when showing your animals.
- Produce a healthy and safe meat product.
- Identify different meat goat breeds.
- Locate and name the parts of a goat.
- Learn the proper feeding of goats.
- Tell the difference between dairy goats and meat goats.
- Develop a medical kit for goats.
- Learn about fencing options.
- Learn about body condition scoring.
- Identify and record the types of plants on your property.
- Develop a predator control program.
- Determine breeding dates.
- Learn about manure management programs.
- Research goat meat markets.
- Construct a model of a soil profile.
- Measure the level of parasite infestation in your herd.
- Conduct a judging clinic.
- Formulate a ration.
- Measure your pasture to productivity.
- Examine meat products.
- Learn about buying and producing good quality meat.

APPLY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

Communication

- Design a poster on the parts of a meat goat.
- Participate in a judging contest providing oral reasons.
- Explain the cuts of meat and how to prepare them.

Civic Engagement

- Volunteer a goat for a hall of breeds.
- Hand out food samples at your local grocery store.
- Volunteer to help at the county fair market goat weigh in.

Leadership

- Invite other 4-H members to tour your farm.
- Teach others how to handle goats safely.
- Lead a meat goat selection and feeding clinic.
- Secure sponsorships for goal related awards.

Entrepreneurship

- Create a weed eating/grazing business for local parks and pastures.
- Sell locally various cuts of meat at farmer's markets and door to door.
- Begin a local goat yoga class that focuses on movement and a growing industry.



Goal Setting and Record Keeping

Goal setting is an ongoing process that guides your project area learning. Having goals is like having a road map to show you how to get you to where you want to go. Record keeping is also an ongoing process and another important life skill. In 4-H, you are encouraged to select from a variety of record keeping formats to meet your own personal needs and your preferred learning style. Keeping records of your learning experiences helps you determine how well you met your goals. Goal setting and record keeping improve your skills in organization, communication, planning, and evaluating.

Iowa 4-H Event Opportunities

- Participate in **county and state fair** exhibit classes.
- Check with your local county 4-H youth development staff to see if there are special events or **workshops in your county** that you want to attend to learn more about your project areas.
- Iowa 4-H members in grades 9–12 can apply for **State Project Area Awards** at State Recognition Day. Applications are open December through January.
- Meet young people from around the state who have completed grades 8–12, and share your interests at the **Iowa 4-H Youth Conference** held at Iowa State University in late June.
- Apply for an in-depth hands-on learning experience on the Iowa State University campus during the three-day **Animal Science Roundup** late June. Youth in grades 8–12 are welcome to apply.
- **Livestock Quiz Bowl** is a team event for 4th–12th graders where they test their knowledge of beef, sheep, swine and meat goats. This event takes place each Spring on the Iowa State University campus.

Share Your Learning With an Exhibit

- Participate in a meat goat show at the county or state fair.
- Create and share an exhibit on the nutritive value of meat goats.
- Explain the different meat cuts and their proper preparation.
- Create a poster on feeding rations.
- Exhibit about preventative vaccinations.
- Create a poster with photos of all the different meat goat breeds.

CAREER CONNECTIONS

- **General farm managers** organize the sales and purchases of livestock, farm equipment, crops, and agricultural products.
- **Livestock judges** provide evaluations of livestock and advocate for the industry at various shows.
- **Agricultural education teachers** teach students about livestock production, lead activities, and get students involved in the community.
- **Veterinarians** care for animals by diagnosing and treating animals with illnesses and injuries.

EDUCATION CONNECTIONS

- Students in **animal science** focus on the management of livestock species, as well as meat science, reproduction, and nutrition.
- If you enjoy different sciences like microbiology, chemistry, and genetics, studying **biology** may interest you.
- Learn **veterinary technology** if you're interested in animal health, anatomy, and disease transmission.
- Study **zoology** if you enjoy working with wild animals in controlled environments and studying animal lifestyles.

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